

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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# Black Solidarity Day STRIKE AGAINST RACISM



The meeting on the steps of Hackney Town Hall. Photo: Ernie Greenwood.

## BETHNAL GREEN HOSPITAL

### *Ennals holds the scalpel*

The future fate of Bethnal Green Hospital is still in the hands of Health Minister David Ennals. He remains unmoved in the face of mounting opposition to the hospital's proposed closure. Ennals has told the City and East London Area Health Authority that "nothing is to be done" about the future of the hospital for the time being. The casualty ward is under immediate threat and the whole hospital has been facing closure since last September.

The City and East London Area Health Authority claim they can only obey the Minister for Health and Social Services, and then reinforce his view. A picket of the Authority on 13 July made sure they knew of local feeling, but the Authority's meeting made little progress as they claim their hands are tied. So a position of deadlock has been reached. As long as this remains the position

Bethnal Green also remains short of staff as student nurses have been taken off the rota. This will continue as long as closure is threatened.

The hospital is in an area where the available resources are being strained to their limits. In Hackney it is proposed to cut the number of hospital beds by more than a third. The Metropolitan Hospital in Kingsland Road has already been closed. Waiting lists at the nearest hospital to Bethnal Green, the London Hospital, are already unacceptably long. Despite this, 300 hospital beds are under threat in Tower Hamlets.

Pickets have been manning the Bethnal Green Hospital gates constantly with help from the public. The hospital welcomes the help of more to man the picket lines and anyone wishing to volunteer can add their name to a list in the 'picket room' inside the hospital. Fortnightly meetings are held and

On Monday 17 July there was a day of strikes and demonstrations in protest against racial violence and discrimination in east London. The Black Solidarity Day, organised by the Tower Hamlets and Hackney Defence Committee, culminated in a large sit-down demonstration outside Bethnal Green police station as 2,000 Asians protested against the arrest of three people during the day.

There was a meeting at 10 am at the Naz Cinema in Brick Lane, attended by about 1500 people from surrounding areas. During the day all the Bengali shops and factories in and around Brick Lane were shut and about 70 per cent of the Asian shops in Hackney were closed also. Factories in Commercial Road and New Road also closed as Asian workers responded to the strike call. The body plant at the Fords Dagenham closed as the Asians there also went on strike.

Local schools were also affected, especially the Robert Montefiore School in Spitalfields which has a high percentage of Asian pupils. About 300 children stayed away, and in South Hackney School there was an assembly dedicated to the opposition of racism.

At 1 pm there was a meeting outside Hackney Town Hall attended by black community leaders, local trade unionists, councillors and local people, including a contingent of school children, mainly from Clapton School.

Patrick Kodikara, chairman of the

Hackney Council for Racial Equality, and member of the strike committee, announced that most of the working Bengali members of the Brick Lane community had responded to the strike call and he called for action against racism in all walks of life: employment, housing etc and especially in the attitude of the police force.

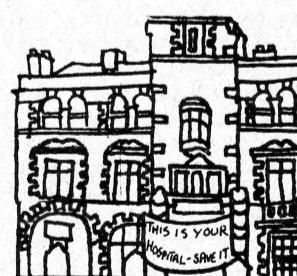
Dudley Dryden of the Association of Jamaicans in the UK reminded the audience of past racial murders leading up to the recent murder of Altab Ali in the East End. He said that forming self-defence groups was the last thing the black community wanted to do, but the present climate of violence was calling for such action.

## 'SUS' ARRESTS

Several school children spoke at the meeting. One girl from Clapton School spoke out against the National Front. She said "I am here today because I don't agree with the National Front. I think they're stupid people with nothing better to do than pick on people." She also voiced her feelings on discrimination by the police, especially by the invidious "arrests on suspicion" to which many young black people are subject in this area. This theme was taken up by another member of the Strike Committee who also mentioned the crime that is committed by young blacks. While not at all condoning it, he appealed that society should understand the frustration of black youth which drives some to crime.

In the afternoon more than a thousand strikers went to the Montefiore Centre to hear speakers and watch the American film "Blacks Britannicus" - about racial problems in Britain. Also hundreds of Asians marched to Whitechapel to attend a rally on the spot where Altab Ali was found dying some weeks ago. More workers came out on strike in the afternoon, and the organisers estimated that more than 8000 people had supported the action.

The strike organisers were delighted with the response, especially as there had not been time to draw trade union support for the strike and there had not been a great deal of publicity. The keynote of the day was one of the Bengalis taking responsibility into their own hands demonstrated vividly by the spontaneous protest at the end of the day.



members of the public can attend from about 7.00 pm on Thursdays 10 and 24 August. More events to raise funds are being planned.

Support for the campaign to keep Bethnal Green Hospital open has been excellent. Locally ex-patients, old age pensioners, trade unionists, hospital staff, Tower Hamlets councillors and local MP Ian Mikardo have all joined the opposition. Among the latest acts of support have been Tower Hamlets dustmen collecting £103 for the campaign funds and 25,000 people (at the latest count) who have signed a petition opposing the closure threat. Signatures are still being collected and more public support is still needed to demonstrate one strength of opposition to yet another proposal which comes from central government ignoring local needs.

# LETTER

Dear HPP

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party which has recently issued an open letter to the workers' movement, its organisations, single issue campaigns and individuals in Hackney. A summary of the letter follows.

The economic system is in crisis. Our standard of living is under attack. Unemployment is rife; social services are blocked or under threat; shortages dividing the working class are constantly being engendered. Competition for jobs, homes and services exists, and is positively encouraged to reduce the chance of a united working class response to the crisis.

Successive governments in search of social and economic stability have appealed for self-sacrifice from working people. The working class expect a Labour government to act in its interests by leading the fight against the capitalist system.

Without such a fight, working class communities such as Hackney will continue to be among the poorest in Britain with problems of de-industrialisation, community decay, increasing social tensions and appalling housing conditions.

It is clear that only a consistent struggle to end the exploitation of working people can effectively challenge the system and unify the working class and its allies against the forces of capitalism.

The Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour party invite you to an open meeting where a discussion around the economy, Ireland, racism, immigration laws, women's oppression, cuts in education, medical care, housing and transport will be led by Ernie Roberts, our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.

We know that many of you will not necessarily agree with our views as a whole, but we would urge you to attend and inform the meeting of your views, plans and activities.

It is hoped that a large attendance accompanied by open discussion and questions will lead the way to a greater collective understanding of our mutual problems.

The Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party are sure that you will agree that this can only further the possibility of building a more powerful response to the deteriorating social and economic conditions faced by the working people of Hackney.

The open meeting will be held at Stamford Hill Library, Stamford Hill, N16 on Thursday 17 August at 7.30 pm.

Yours fraternally  
F Gorton, Education Officer, Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party.



"If hospitals had to conform to the health and safety standards required in industry today many could be shut down" - so said Sheila McKechnie, the Health and Safety Officer for ASTMS, speaking at this month's Community Health Council meeting.

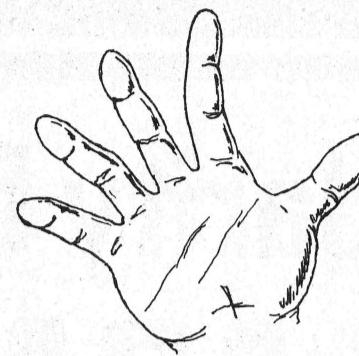
She gave many examples of the hazards which hospital workers face daily - ranging from general risks of infection to porters and orderlies in emptying waste bins and to laboratory technicians forced to eat their lunch in the very room where they have been testing samples of blood and urine; to the dangers from the use of substances banned in industry eg benzine, and outdated, unsafe equipment and the improper storage of quantities of gas containers in corridors etc.

A new Health and Safety Act comes into force in October. It states that the employer (in this case the Area Health Authority) must provide a safe system of work, the safe storage of materials and adequate facilities for welfare. But this is unlikely to improve conditions in hospitals, because although hospitals are included in the Act, they are immune to prosecution because they are Crown property. The DHSS is responsible for setting the standards and codes of practice in hospitals, but it is up to the Area Health Authority to enforce these standards. They are decided without union representation. ASTMS has the support of the Health and Safety Commission in its demands for changes which are: the removal of the Crown immunity to prosecution; that the Health and Safety Commission

should set the standards as they do in industry, and these should be equivalent to those in industry; that money should be provided for the setting up of Safety Representatives (appointed by the trades union, as outlined in the Act) - a separate budget negotiated specifically for improving safety.

Ms McKechnie went on to outline her opinion of why the NHS falls so far behind industry in health and safety matters. Her reasons were the lack of finance, the attitude of the medical profession which looked at the patient in isolation and led to situations like doctors not identifying samples as potentially dangerous because of delays in their analysis (eg in London such identified samples would have to be sent to Cottenham Wood hospital for analysis) and the lack of communication leading to such incidents as plumbers mending a drain used for toxic substances without being warned of this. She emphasised the need for careful study of what the hazards actually are; what kinds of controls are necessary and what kind of training is needed for employees. To demonstrate this latter point, she gave the simple example of hospital porters who (unlike nurses) are given no training in how to lift patients and thus frequently suffer back problems. But the major prerequisite was to get the coordinated pressure of the unions to organise for change and the recognition by the DHSS and the Area Health Authorities that hazards to workers are hazards to patients.

## the wrong arm of the law



A parcel bomb exploded in the Kings Cross bookshop owned by the pacifist newspaper Peace News two weeks ago. The assistant manager is still in hospital for skin grafts to his hands. The police Anti-Terrorist Squad investigated the explosion, which was possibly caused by the ultra-fascist Column 88, but have yet to make any arrests. Instead they have continued their harassment of a number of left-wingers and have continued their raids on households throughout north and east London. They have charged more people with "conspiracy to cause explosions" though they have yet to find any explosions which have taken place. And they have ignored the fact that some of the accused "conspirators" do not even know each other.

On the day Peace News was bombed, the Anti-Terrorist Squad picked up two men in Ridley Road Market as they were on their way to a meeting in support of the four arrested "conspirators" (see June issue for details). One of the men was released after a night in the cells. The other, Vince Stevenson, who works at Rising Free bookshop in Upper Street, has now been charged as part of the conspiracy. The sixth person charged is Trevor Dawton, a student, who was arrested at his

home in the Angel on the following day.

All six defendants have now appeared in court together twice and have protested vociferously about the conditions under which they have been kept. Iris Mills, the only woman in the six, is kept in solitary confinement in the all-male Brixton Prison. The six are transported to and from court in a police cattle wagon which is driven so badly and so fast that friends worry about the prisoners' safety. Last week it hit a van entering the yard behind the court and knocked over a police motorbike coming out.

In the absence of any concrete evidence the Anti-Terrorist Squad is continuing its theatrical campaign against the anarchist movement. The Daily Mail printed a story which was almost hysterical, describing the police "picking up whispers" of a "terror gang thought to be planning attacks on establishment targets." They talked also of a possible "arsenal of weapons and explosives" and connections with the German Baader-Meinhof Gang. As yet, however, there has been no "arsenal" found, and no evidence yet produced to suggest that the six defendants - some of whom have highly principled pacifist beliefs - were involved in any terrorist activities at all.

And what of the real terrorist gangs operating in Britain today? Police investigating recent bombs at the Peace News bookshop, the arson attack on the Anti-Nazi League office, the gutting by fire of the Albany Theatre in Deptford, the parcel bombs sent to a union, the Communist Party and a High Wycombe bus driver, have not yet made a single arrest. Just what are the Anti-Terrorist Squad's priorities?

The support group for the six defendants is Persons Unknown, Box 123, 182 Upper Street, N1

## Backlands Victory

The recent rejection by the Secretary of State for the Environment of Hackney Council's plans for the development of the interiors and a large part of the back gardens of two blocks of houses in Mapledene has delighted all who live in the area. We feel that it is a victory for good sense, and sane planning.

The building of poorly designed houses that could only be described as 'people huts' on the back gardens of houses - many of which are already owned by the Council, was described by the people living locally as 'a scandal, bad planning and as a way of getting their own back for the previous defeat of the Compulsory Purchase Order on the whole of Mapledene.' All of which is true enough.

If people, tenants (including council tenants) and owner-occupiers in Mapledene can stop this sort of official vandalism, so can the rest of the citizens of this borough. It does seem to be part of Hackney's planning policy to scavenge around for bits of land and build on them, with little or no regard for the needs of the people living locally. We stopped this behaviour, and so could you.

In Mapledene we have four committees representing the views of local people - two General Improvement Area Committees, one Housing Action Area Committee and The Mapledene Residents' Association. One further group, which we called the Backlands Group, was formed for the purpose of fighting this Compulsory Purchase Order. All of these Committees were opposed to the destruction of gardens, and the building over of recreation space. So were three well-attended public meetings. Hackney Council however knew better. It went ahead with its plans - in an area where 'consultation' is official council policy!

The result was rejection of a scheme which the DOE described as a "social disaster".

It is hoped that the embarrassment from this latest defeat will encourage our planners to take consultation seriously. It does seem to be the case at least in some official circles, that local people know their own needs best.

by Ernie Greenwood, Chairman, Mapledene Residents' Association.

## YOUR ART? "LIVE"

The "Live Arts" summer scheme is a one-week course in the creative arts for anyone aged 18 or over running at the Whitechapel Gallery from 16 to 22 September. It is for anyone, regardless of whether they have done any previous work in the arts or not. The idea is to help people develop their own creative abilities and to find links between the arts and their own experience of everyday life.

"Live Arts" will be centred on imagination rather than techniques or crafts. Participants will work mainly in small groups: each person will be able to choose what he or she does. There will be plenty of scope for experiment in a wide variety of art forms (or combinations of arts) eg poetry, theatre, visual arts, sound, video, dance, photography, print etc. Events will run through the day from 9 am to 9 pm, beginning the week on the Saturday afternoon at 2 pm and ending on the Friday evening at 9 pm.

Groups will be assisted by practising artists experienced in the various art forms listed above.

Only 100 people can be accepted, on a first come first served basis. Twenty-five places will be reserved for residents of east London. The fee for the week is £10.00, which will be requested after your application (if you can't afford the fee we may be able to help - please contact the gallery). The £10.00 fee is a fraction of the total cost of organising the course. "Live Arts" is heavily subsidised by the Whitechapel Art Gallery and the Greater London Arts Association.

To reserve a place write to: Martin Rewcastle, the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX, tel 377 0107.

## COUNCIL REVERSE LET LIVE DECISION

Contrary to the report in the last issue of HPP, Hackney Council has now rescinded its controversial decision to allow the anti-abortion organisation, Let Live, open a hostel for pregnant homeless women in Hackney.

Before the June Council meeting the Labour group decided by a majority of 46 votes to 4 to overturn the decision of the Social Services Committee to permit the hostel. The main reason for this change of heart by the Labour group was the apparent discovery that active encouragement of such groups as Let Live was against Labour Party policy. Thus the group - and then the Council two days later - took the unusual policy of overturning a Committee decision.

Let Live came out then with the predictable bleatings that there would not be no provision for homeless pregnant women in the borough. And, of course, they kept saying that they were not an anti-abortion group at all - a statement that has been proved false time and again by its connections with various Catholic organisations and SPUC, the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

Let Live's opponents deny that there are, in fact, queues of pregnant women waiting outside the Social Services offices for a roof over their heads. But the Council is now demanding a full report from the Social Services department about what is exactly available for the homeless. Diana Morley told HPP that the Broad Left group of councillors felt that it should be the Council's duty to provide any necessary hostel accommodation. "We should not shove our responsibilities off to charities," she said. "We should be prepared, of course, to give plenty of cooperation to genuine

community groups but we should not attempt to find cheap solutions to our problems by ducking our duty." She would like to see the Council get definite plans for converting and using one of the many empty properties in the borough by the early autumn.

## ROCKS OFF

Keith Shepherd who opened the Middleton Arms up as a live rock venue earlier this year decided to quit last month as the place did not catch on despite some good bands, and was losing money. He is going on to manage the band Loaded who appeared there a few times. However, the show goes on, though now with fixed bands Urchin, Ash and Zarabanda on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively and a disco all other nights.

## LEFT HOUSING LOOK

The Broad Left group, who comprise 24 of the 60 members of the new Council, seem to be making housing their major concern. 10 of the group were placed on the Housing Development Committee, which, with a committee of 16, gives them a clear majority. The committee has already asked housing officers to prepare detailed plans which would meet some of the policies laid out in the Labour manifesto. They are also pressing the Labour group to agree to their desire to instruct the Housing Executive Officer to increase further his 1978/9 bid for the housing investment programme - and that bid of £45 million is already a considerable increase on last year's allocation.

The final meeting of the Council before the summer recess on 26 July will hear two further motions on housing from Brian Weller and Peter Kahn, instructing the Council to press the Government to provide the legislation that will enable the Council to have an efficient Direct Labour Organisation and to give them requisition powers over private property that is left empty for speculative reasons.

The second of these motions, proposed by Brian Weller, a councillor for Rector Ward, confirms the growing concern over the scandal of Hackney's empty homes. The issue was first given new life at the open partnership meeting between Council officers and community groups held at the end of last year. At that meeting a large number of questions were asked from the floor requesting more information from the officers about the number of properties left vacant and how community groups might be able to use them. The questions were evaded and no information was forthcoming.

The Hackney Housing Action Group had been surveying the borough for empty properties. In December they found that there were 2000 empty properties, not including those on estates, or houses for sale. The group went on to look in much greater detail at Rector, the ward Brian Weller represents. Altogether some 157 houses were discovered to be empty, and from comparison with previous surveys done in 1974 and 1976, it was clear that the numbers were steadily increasing. Brian Weller has used the statistics compiled by the Housing Action Group as the basis for his own investigation. Despite getting full answers from the Housing Officers and the Housing Associations, the Housing Action Group has been able to supply him with details of a number of empty properties in the ward that seem to have been overlooked. Cllr Weller will be pursuing his questions about these properties.

## ANTI NAZI NEWS

On Friday 22 July another Anti-Nazi League group was born, this time in North Hackney at a meeting at Stamford Hill Library. More than ninety people listened to speeches from prospective Labour candidate Ernie Roberts with Communist candidate Monty Goldman and three local speakers including Aleck Biswas, a leading light in the recent Brick Lane mobilisation against the National Front. There was not much time for discussion and contributions from the floor but this will take place at a future meeting to be called by the group. A representative from the North West Hackney Anti-Nazi League branch asked the new group to support the event which is being arranged in the Finsbury Park area on Saturday 19 August. This will involve bands, leafletting, and maybe poster parade, floats and dancing. Details are not finalised yet, but for further information phone 254 6218. It's going to be a fun event, so come.

### Paint outs

The South Hackney Anti-Nazi League held another successful paint-out of racist slogans in Broadway Market on Saturday 22 July. One youth club in Hackney took spray cans on holiday and helped the locals to paint out some slogans.

### Central Hackney ANL

In Central Hackney another branch of the Anti-Nazi League has been formed, initially to cover the Rector and Downs wards.

### National Conference

The Anti-Nazi League National Conference was a huge success, with more than 800 delegates attending but could perhaps have been improved. There was no discussion of the decision-making structure of the organisation. It was sad that, in a body which is opposed to discrimination against all groups, there wasn't more positive discrimination regarding the speakers at the conference.

Prior to the discussion of the final motion (when the HPP correspondent left) there were only five women speakers out of a total of 38. This was not due to any deliberate act of policy on the part of the organisers but because no women put themselves forward to speak. But I believe it would have been better if enough men there had been sensitive to realise the situation and to refrain from contributing to leave space for women to speak.

The following groups can put you in touch with your local ANL branch: South Hackney ANL c/o Oxford House, Derbyshire St, E2; North West Hackney ANL, c/o Green Lanes Methodist Community Centre, 132 Green Lanes, N16; and Central Hackney ANL, c/o 126 Amhurst Road, E8.

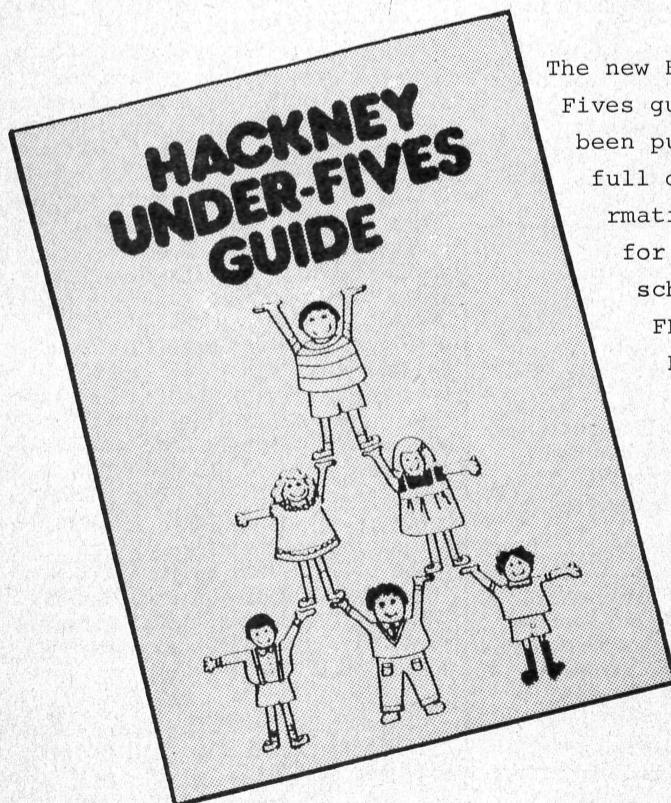
Can  
we  
write  
for you?

Do you need help with reading or writing, forms or letters? Drop in at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, any Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12.30. We can't give advice or translate but we can put down what you want to say in English for you.

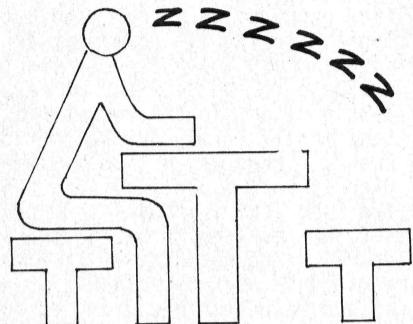
## PROGRESS FOR HACKNEY UNDER 5'S

The Hackney Under Fives Group got two pleasant surprises on Tuesday 6 July when they attended the Social Services Committee of the Council. Firstly they heard that the plan to fund playgroups and nurseries by the number of children attending at any time ('per capita' - as it was called) had been thrown out by the Labour group. Then they also were invited to nominate a representative to the Social Services Committee. Hackney Community Link-Up, the umbrella organisation for voluntary and community groups in the borough, have also been invited to nominate a representative.

The new Hackney Under Fives guide has just been published. Packed full of useful information about facilities for children of pre-school age. Available FREE from HUF, 136 Kingsland High Street E8. (254 9145).



# LEGAL AID SCANDAL AT Highbury



The first public meeting of the newly formed Highbury Court Action Committee took place on Monday 17 July. This is a group of barristers and local solicitors practising at Highbury Corner Court who are angry at the miscarriages of justice which take place there.

The meeting was attended by forty local people.

The latest figures on the granting of legal aid in magistrates courts in London have confirmed what lawyers and defendants appearing in Highbury Corner Court have suspected since the new court complex was opened in 1975. The Chief Clerk and two of the three permanent magistrates, Mr McLean and Mr Springer, seem to be running a deliberate policy of refusing legal aid in an exceptionally high number of cases with the result that many people in Islington and Hackney face the possibility of being convicted and sent to prison without legal representation. The table below shows the percentages of legal aid applications granted by Highbury Court and some of its neighbours. From these figures it can be seen that only 51% of cases heard at Highbury and only 75% of cases which are referred to a crown court get granted legal aid.

## SEVERAL HURDLES

There are several hurdles to be overcome in order to apply successfully for legal aid at Highbury. The first is to know about it in

the first place - because if a defendant does not know about legal aid the court does not take the responsibility to tell him or her. The second hurdle is that if the defendant applies for an adjournment in order to have time to make a legal aid application, s/he is often refused an adjournment or threatened with a remand in custody during the adjournment.

When the legal aid application form actually goes to the magistrate, whole areas of crime are considered unsuitable eg low value theft, arrests on demonstrations. Then there is often a long delay in making a decision, so that a lawyer who has taken the case on has to work without knowing whether he will be paid or not. If legal aid is actually granted, there are usually high contributions asked for eg first £50 to be paid by the defendant.

## AID REFUSED

In certain cases it is required by law that legal aid be granted, eg if the penalty may be a prison sentence. In these cases, the Highbury magistrates have been known to refuse legal aid until the defendant has either pleaded guilty or been found guilty, and then grant legal aid. Effectively this means that the defendant does not have a lawyer to argue his or her case, but has spoken to a lawyer before s/he hears his sentence.

In certain cases also the defendant has the right to be tried by jury. At Highbury this basic right is being eroded away by the practice of allowing legal aid for the magistrates court, but refusing it for a higher court.

The behaviour of Highbury Corner Magistrates Court over the question of legal aid is only one aspect of the workings of the court which has upset barristers, social workers and local people since the court opened in 1975. However, it is a very important issue for the residents of Islington and Hackney, many of whom depend heavily on the availability of legal aid.

## LEGAL AID FIGURES

Court	Summary Proceedings (ie trials at Highbury)	Committals to Crown Court
	Percentage of legal aid granted of total applications	Percentage of legal aid granted of total applications
Bow Street	91%	99%
Clerkenwell	92%	100%
Hampstead	93%	100%
HIGHBURY	51%	75%
Old Street	79%	99%
Waltham Forest	81%	100%
Thames	59%	100%

	Percentage of legal aid granted of total applications
	100%

# Not a nice story

An 85-year old woman who died in the London Hospital after evidence of neglect has had an inquest into her death denied by a coroner. She had previously been in Donnybrook, an old people's home run by Tower Hamlets Council, where it has been alleged she was badly treated.

The woman was Miss Laura Dumont, and she was suffering from the preliminary stages of gangrene. She needed a leg amputation but was too ill to be operated on. According to the medical certificate, she died from "septicaemia caused by insufficient supply of blood to her left

foot and leg". But after a post-mortem examination, cause of death was changed to heart failure and as this fell into the category of "death from natural causes" an inquest was rejected.

Miss Dumont's niece, Mrs Joyce Fagg, says her aunt was frequently left covered in excreta in Donnybrook. Mrs Fagg wrote letters of protest to Tower Hamlets Social Services department which were acknowledged but not answered. A social worker who attempted to investigate was castigated for trying to intervene.

Despite Miss Dumont's state she was administered laxatives at

## HOMEWORKERS FIGHT BACK

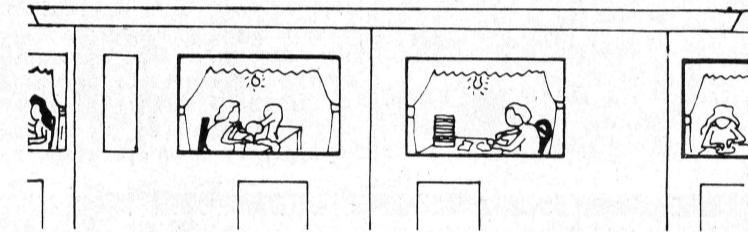
# £4 a week!

Mrs Brewster is a typical homeworker. In an average week she sews between 4,000 and 6,000 buttons onto cards. She gets paid between 73p and £1.30 per thousand. She can sew between 120 and 150 buttons per hour. She usually works more than 36 hours in a week to earn between £4 and £6.

She does the work because she gave up a "real" job to stay at home to look after her little boy, and she found that she needed more money, however little. Other homeworkers share this attitude: "None of us would do this boring work if we didn't need the money. Our youngest child is two years old and there are no nurseries around here so I can't get a job outside."

There are no nurseries around here. How true ... in Hackney there are 16,700 under fives and only 471 day nursery places, so the Council, by not providing adequate child care for under fives, is making it easy for firms to take advantage of parents who are forced to stay at home to look after their children.

Another homeworker, when interviewed by the London Homeworking Campaign, said: "I usually earn £7 a week. If I worked very hard I got £12. I often asked him for more money, but he said: "Take it or leave it. There are a lot of other ladies who want to do the work".



The reason the boss said this is that it is probably true because a homeworker who earns £7 a week as this woman did is "well off".

## 12p AN HOUR

Following a national survey in 1975 it was found that the average weekly wage for homeworkers was £5.61, and that the average hourly rate for homeworkers was 12p an hour.

All this work is paid at slave labour rates and in some cases it is also dangerous. Work involving the use of radioactive thorium has been given out to homeworkers and because it is homework there is no enforceable law to protect the workers. Firework filling is also an old favourite for employers to send out to homeworkers and is also dangerous because of the gunpowder and the consequent fire risk.

Hackney Homeworkers Campaign is trying to bring homeworkers together to demand better working conditions but there are several problems. Homeworkers are reluctant to come forward because firms which give work out are viciously anti-union and

Donnybrook. Doctors at the London Hospital phoned to ask this to be stopped, but she was still given them. Mrs Fagg frequently found her aunt "in a disgusting state" when visiting. She also complained that she received "tiny amounts of food".

Tower Hamlets Council have vehemently denied the accusations levelled against them. They claim Miss Dumont was incontinent because of laxatives prescribed by the London Hospital. A spokesman said: "All we can assume is that Mrs Fagg happened to visit her aunt just after she had become dirty".

therefore workers are worried that the work will be withdrawn from them. Also many homeworkers are worried about using their own homes for work and are concerned that they might be breaking some law and so don't want to take part in any campaign as they fear that it might somehow involve the "authorities".

## COUNCIL INACTION

Probably the biggest stumbling block in getting changes in the conditions of homeworkers has been the inaction by Hackney Council.

At a Council meeting on 25 January this year the then chairperson of the Health and Consumer Protection Committee, ex-councillor Lou Sherman, said that there were 31 manufacturers in Hackney registered as employing a total of 268 people. He also said: "Following the advent of the Health and Safety at Work Act and a survey which is to commence in the new financial year additional premises which should be making notifications will be revealed. Every effort is being made to ensure an accurate record of outworkers situation." Hackney Homeworkers Campaign was not satisfied that "every effort" was being made and conducted their own survey of homeworkers and within

three weeks they had located 119 manufacturers in Hackney who employ homeworkers, and the list now stands at around 200 - quite a few more than the Council's figure of 31. The survey, which was supposed to start in the new financial year in April, hasn't yet begun. Even when the Council discover firms which aren't registered they will not be able to do much, as the maximum fine for non-registration is only £20.

## WILLING TO EXPLOIT

While there is a group of workers where the members are isolated from each other, tied to the home and needing money there will always be firms willing to exploit them. However, if any one of these handicaps was overcome then the homeworker would be better off. If the homeworkers can get together and strike for better conditions they will win. If nursery facilities are improved so that both parents could go out to work the rip-off firms would lose a large part of their captive labour force, and therefore be forced to pay better money to attract people who at least had a choice of work. Finally the average household income in Hackney is 20% below the Greater London average which forces people into a position where they cannot just rely on one income, so if one parent stays at home to look after pre-school age children they are more likely to need to boost their household income than do people in other richer areas of London. If wages were forced up then households would not be so dependent on the extra money they get from homeworking and would be in a better bargaining position.

The problems are severe ... the solutions, obvious but it is up to individuals to take action and also force the Council to face up to its responsibilities.

Contact Hackney Homeworkers Campaign, c/o Family Centre, 50 Rector Road, N16, tel 249 8334.

# BROADWAY MARKET NOT SUNK YET!

Last month the "Broadway Market Preservation Society" organised a carnival to draw people's attention to the plight of the area. Despite the weather not being at its best, the day went well and drew a lot of people to the stalls and shows. The Society was formed by local residents and traders who have become more and more worried about the fate of the market and their livelihood. They have started to draw up alternatives to the destructive plans the GLC have prepared for the area.

## LACK OF IMAGINATION

Several years ago now the GLC drew up big plans for the Broadway Market area at the south end of London Fields. True to form and with total lack of imagination they decided to knock everything down after compulsory purchase of all the local property, wait for some years until they could find some money, and then rebuild flats very much in the style of some of the monstrosities you can see along the north side of the canal in that area.

These plans were divided into four phases of redevelopment. If the intention of that was to minimise the disruption of the locality, then it failed miserably; hundreds of families have been moved out with no prospect of returning in the foreseeable future, because the wastelands where their houses were, are lying untouched behind several streets of iron fencing. This, apparently, is the phase two area.

## CONTRACTORS GO BUST

The extra long time it is taking to build something on this land is partly due to the contractors going bust, but despite this, the GLC are determined to start phase three demolition anyway. All this time, the trade on Broadway Market has been suffering badly because people have been moved out and it has lost its role as a focus for the community.

*Broadway Market has a long history. The Cat and Mutton pub stands on the site of an old tavern called the Shoulder of Mutton, dating back to at least 1731. Dr William Robinson mentions it in his History of the Parish of Hackney, published in 1843, in connection with a crime which took place nearby on 6 December 1752, the neighbourhood being notorious for the gangs of robbers that frequented it.*

*"As a tradesman was returning to town from Hackney, he was attacked near the Shoulder of Mutton by two fellows who robbed him of £13 and his pocket book. He begged hard to have the last article returned to him and, happening to recollect one of the rogues, he said to him: 'Honest friend, one good turn deserves another. I was one of the jurymen that tood compassion on you last session at the Old Bailey when you was tried for robbery and acquitted, though we all believed you to be guilty'. To this the thief replied: 'Curse your eyes, you son of a bitch, learn to do justice another time and be damned', and immediately made off without returning the pocket book."*

(From UP THE BROADWAY by Israel Renson)

Hackney Council recognised this and reduced rent on the shops there, but the stall-holders still have to pay £9.00 a week (since last year's increase) like any other stall in Hackney, even though the trade is much slacker, being only four days a week, and a few hours on Saturday being the only busy time.

## HOLE IN THE STREET

It is phase three of the redevelopment that might well break the back of the Market. Firstly, one whole terrace of shops actually on the Broadway is to come down right in



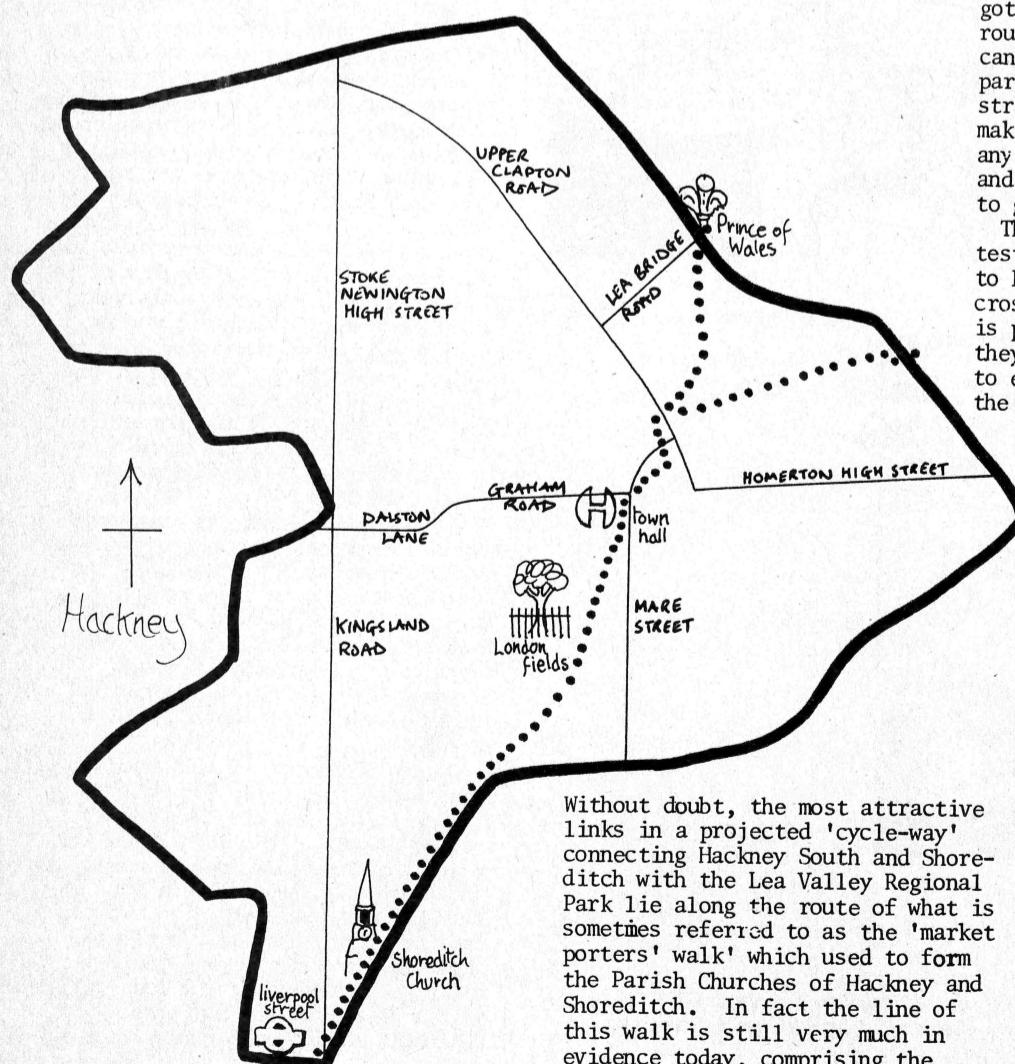
A once beautiful Georgian house the GLC want to demolish rather than renovate the row "down by December"

## BUS DEPOTS TO MERGE

The rest of the phase three demolition covers quite a large area, including Ivydene, Trederwen and Brougham Road, and more significantly Dalston bus garage. It was originally intended that Hackney, Dalston and Clapton garages were to be merged into one large depot just north of the canal on Cambridge Heath Road. However, it now appears only two will be merged. Furthermore, the plans and final decisions do not seem to have been settled yet, so obviously Dalston garage must stay put for at least three or four years until they build the new place. This means that if the GLC do pull down the terrace and others in December, the land will stay derelict for at least that length of time. The Broadway Market Preservation Society have proposed that it would be much better to keep the old terrace, do it up at considerably less cost and rent it, rather than expecting traders to put up £3,000 to start. They have asked for copies of the survey reports and keys to the shops, so that with the help of a student from the Architectural Association and a lecturer in architecture they can draw up some alternative suggestions.

## MARKET'S LAST CHANCE

A few have already been started and were on show at the carnival in "before and after" pictures. As Stuart Goodman, the chairman of the Society, says, "If this was Hampstead, then Broadway Market would be a desirable area, and the Council would be very keen to improve the quality of some of these old buildings rather than pull them down." He admits that the organisation has not been particularly democratic due to a shortage of time and people who actually turned out to help. "It's not a political thing, it's just a last chance for the Market."



Without doubt, the most attractive links in a projected 'cycle-way' connecting Hackney South and Shoreditch with the Lea Valley Regional Park lie along the route of what is sometimes referred to as the 'market porters' walk' which used to form the Parish Churches of Hackney and Shoreditch. In fact the line of this walk is still very much in evidence today, comprising the

Hackney Cyclists Action Group have got together to work out some cycle routes using Hackney's streets, canal towpaths, side passages and park paths. Many of these do not strictly allow bicycles, but would make good cycleways without causing any inconvenience to pedestrians, and make Hackney a much safer place to get around on a bike.

The Group have already done one test cycle from Shoreditch Church to Lea Valley Park. Their route crossed several parks where cycling is prohibited at the moment, but they want these restrictions lifted to encourage commuter cycling to the city.

Contact Tessa Burns, 10 Kynaston Road, N16. Tel 254 4559.



following links which extend in a straight line in a north-easterly direction as follows:

Virginia Road, Columbia Road, Goldsmiths Row, Pritchards Road, Broadway Market, London Fields, Martello Street, Hackney Grove and Sylvester Path.

St John's Gardens, Churchwell Path, Clapton Square, Clapton Passage and then on to the Lea.

# ANANDA MARGA

## ON THE HARD ROAD TO ETERNAL HAPPINESS

A few days ago, on 10 July, one of the many overseas visitors to the Ananda Marga Jagriti (Yoga House) in Stoke Newington had the experience of having 600 dollars in cash stolen from her handbag while she sat in meditation. Some opportunist had walked in off the street and made a connection. There had been no break-in so there was very little the police could do in the way of positive investigation. They simply told us that Hackney, Stoke Newington in particular, had the highest per capita rate of muggings, break-ins and burglaries in London, and that our own vigilance is the key to our well-being. The point that this story serves to illustrate is that Hackney is a tough place to live in and is very much a place where Ananda Marga belongs.

### CONTROVERSIAL GROUP

Ananda Marga is recognised internationally as a controversial group. Most of the controversy stems from the fact that the leader and founder of Ananda Marga, Mr P R Sarkar, has been held in prison in India on false charges for the past six and a half years. He was held without trial for four and a half, during which time an attempt was made to

kill him by poisoning. During the state of Emergency in India (a time of whimsical justice), the Gandhi regime brought Mr Sarkar and his four co-accused to trial. The judgement resulted in life sentences for all. Ananda Margiis everywhere used every single human rights and political avenue open to them to get justice. Lord Gardiner and Sir Harold Wilson were among the many who gave support in this country by writing to Mrs Gandhi direct. In May last year the Emergency was lifted, but eleven months more passed before Mr Sarkar's case came before the High Court for appeal in April of this year. Protests, in the meantime, had become more significant.

### SELF-IMMOLATION

Four Ananda Marga workers committed self-immolation in protest against the continuing persecution of AM, two in Germany, one in the Philippines and one in USA. In the UK, many demonstrations and fasts have been held and currently three ex-members of Ananda Marga have been committed to trial without bail on charges relating to violence. The case is sub-judge so further comment is precluded, though it should be said the Ananda Marga neither sup-

ports nor condones acts of violence. Such actions are purely individual in sentiment and are completely extrinsic to the general movement of the group. The UK case scheduled for hearing at the end of July may now be held in October.

### ETERNAL HAPPINESS

Ananda Marga, literally, means the path of eternal happiness, is an international socio-spiritual group with members in over 80 countries. The basic ideology of Ananda Marga is self-realisation, through the spiritual practice of Tantric meditation and service to humanity, through social service and education programmes. Thus Ananda Marga is a subjective approach to life with an objective and adjustment. The London headquarters was set up just over a year ago at 1-3 Cazenove Road, N16. There is a Women's Centre at No 1, where Ananda Marga classes (introduction and relaxation) are held. Twice weekly cheap kitchen and children's playgroups are also held there. There is a wholefood shop at No 3 run by Margiis under the international Food for All movement (also part of Ananda Marga). There are fifteen Ananda Margiis living in the London com-

munity at present. Introduction classes are held every Wednesday (7.30 pm) at 1 Cazenove Road, N16.

### SARKAR ACQUITTED

A great deal of time, money and energy has gone into this struggle for justice. Ultimately truth always wins and on 3 July the appeal judges in the Patna High Court in India unceremoniously dismissed the prosecution case and acquitted Mr Sarkar and the co-accused of all charges and ordered them to be released. History shows that persecution is an important phase in the growth of any dynamic group - and for Ananda Marga there has been seven years of solid persecution. The fact that Ananda Marga has survived this period, let alone been able to continue its programmes, is in itself an extraordinary achievement. So after the long night, the next phase is dawning - the phase of expansion. We hope that in the next few years Ananda Marga will make good progress and become a useful and familiar group in this, the toughest of all London boroughs - Hackney.

Barry Green, Ananda Marga London Secretary.

# ACTION PACT COMIC



Copyright ALCARAF

The cartoons above are part of a story in comic strip form which make up a comic called ACTION PACT. This has been published by ALCARAF, the All Lewisham Campaign against Racism and Fascism, and can be obtained from them at c/o 120 Rushey Green, London SE6.

### THE ABC OF SECRECY

The Government's recent plans to reform the Official Secrets Act have been met with the predictable amount of abuse, because their proposals go nowhere towards the reforms promised in the Labour manifesto for the 1974 elections. This promised that a Labour government would introduce a Freedom of Information Act, similar to that which operates in both Sweden and the United States, which would require the government and its civil servants to justify the withholding of information and make it much easier for ordinary people to discover what public money was being spent on.

There is another severe criticism of the Government White Paper. Although it does advocate the abolition of the discredited Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, which is absurdly out of date, it does not propose any reform of Section 1, the so-called "spying" section, which is currently being used in the prosecution of two journalists, Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell, and their contact, ex-soldier John Berry. Their trial begins at the Old Bailey on 5 September this year, after their arrest eighteen months ago after a private conversation they had had in Berry's flat. Obviously, the use of Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act against these three is a flagrant misuse of legislation that was specifically designed for use against spies.

The evening before the trial of Aubrey, Berry and Campbell begins, on Monday September 4th, there will be a public meeting in the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, when the speakers will be Tom Litterick MP, a severe critic of the proposed reforms, Peter Hain, John Berry and Pat Arrowsmith. The meeting will be at 7.30pm.

On the first day of the trial, 5 September, and every subsequent Tuesday, there will be a picket of the Old Bailey. This will be at 9am on the first day and on the subsequent Tuesdays at 12.30pm. A win for Aubrey, Berry and Campbell in this case is vital, for the rights and personal freedom of every individual in this country. A loss will be the greatest blow to these liberties seen here for many years.

# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.  
For the next issue, just send us your information by

**FRIDAY 18th AUGUST**

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

### HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from

10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

### TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

### HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

### HARAMBEFF 2 PROJECT

74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

### OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm Thursdays).

### FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973  
986 9146 (office hours)

### FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS

Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawny Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

### HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP

Concerned about the plight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Enterprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

### HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM

East London branch, c/o John Bagge, 90 Fawcett Estate, Clapton Common, E5. Campaigns for advancement of education in constructive penal and social policies.

### HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

### HOMERTON GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

### HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

### HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

### WOMEN'S CENTRE

1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop, beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation, consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative medicine, self-defence. Further information from 806 6664. All women welcome.

### RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

### HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP

Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

### HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE

Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

## Health

### CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/B351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes *HEALTH IN HACKNEY*: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

### HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY

Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

### THE BIRTH CENTRE

188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm-25p.

### EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP

c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N16. 254 3277.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## Community Centres

### CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.

**Coffee bar and meeting room hours:**

Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.

Saturday 10am-5.30pm.

**FACILITIES:**

Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.

### ADVICE CENTRE:

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.

### READING CENTRE:

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Sharpnel or ring 254 9635.

### PUBLISHING PROJECT:

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or ring 254 9634.

### WALLY FOSTER CENTRE

Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.

Community Centre with many activities:

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE:** every weekday 9am-5pm.

**ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:**

Every Monday at 7pm.

Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.

See also **ADVICE** and **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES** listings.

### THE FACTORY

107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.

Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after-school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.

### CONTACT THEM FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

### THE FAMILY CENTRE

50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.

Information and help for all community problems.

Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

### HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE

302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 988 8123.

Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

### HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU

Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

### HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N16.

Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.

**FRIDAYS 7-8pm.**

### RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.

Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.

**SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.**

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**, **OFF CENTRE** and **FRIENDS ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

### Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?

### EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE

Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Education

### SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

83 Eleanor Road, E8.

Contact Beverly Bowes for details.

### ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

### ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.

Pam Lorenz, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Sue Grandfield, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 254 7763

Mr G.L. Harding, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street N1. 739 6981.

Sue Sharpnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.

Ms J Hewes, HIGBURY MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4. 226 9190.

John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street N1. 739 5431.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES

Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney etc.

FAMILY CENTRE, 50 Rectory Road, N16.

Thursdays 10.30-12.30pm.

LOWER CLAPTON HEALTH CENTRE, Lower Clapton Rd, E5.

Wed and Fri 1.00-2.30pm.

THE FACTORY: Matthias Road, N1.

Wed and Fri 9.30-10.30am.

MOTHERS HOSPITAL, Lower Clapton Road, E5.

Mon and Wed 1.00-3.00pm.

SOMERFORD GROVE HEALTH CENTRE, Somerford Gr, N16.

Tuesdays 1.30-3.30pm.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE, Homerton Road, E9.

Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE CENTRE, 129 Newington Gn Rd, N1.

Mon and Wed 7.30-9.00pm.

GAYHURST SCHOOL, Gayhurst Road, E8.

Wednesdays 4.00-6.00pm.

For further information contact Sabrina Aaronovitch at the Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16. 254 1193.

ALL MY OWN WORK

### THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.

Learn to print posters, T shirts etc. at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 1pm-8pm.

### COMET WORKSHOP

Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.

Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodworking.

Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee.

Open every weekday.



## Hackney Marsh Fun Festival

1978

Daubeney Fields was once again the venue for Hackney's answer to the Highland Games - the Hackney Marsh Fun Festival. For the fourth year running, Hackney community groups have come together for 'all the fun of the fair', but without the "rip-off" element. The proceeds of the event have swelled the coffers of local needy groups, with some plough-back to the Marsh festival organisers to start the ball rolling towards next year's event.

The central theme of the Festival was films. The 'wonderful world of motion pictures' gave local people the chance to be Dracula, Snow White, or just one of the 101 Dalmatians, for the two days of the Festival. As usual, the organisers had arranged a full programme of Spectacle, games and music. Where else could you ride a camel, bash a rat and drink a pint of real ale, all on the same day? And talking of rats, Hackney People's Press was there with its ever popular Bash the Rat stall (see picture.)

This year, the weather was better and Hackney people came out in droves. Perhaps the good weather was due to the strange rituals of Bruce Lacey and Jill Bruce, who gave the sun some encouragement with drums and lenses.

Photos: Graham Coles, Clive Aldiss



Bashing the rat with HPP:  
Edward G. Robinson couldn't  
come, so he sent his brother.

Lawrence of Arabia couldn't come either, so he sent his camels.

